The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" It will be constructed as soon as finances are made available."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" I wish to know if finances will be made available at all. The difficulty is that it is the main line of communication and we are anxious to know whether the financial position has been settled."

The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" I am afraid I cannot anticipate the state of the finances some time hence or the decision of the Council on a matter which is in its hands."

Rao Bahadur T. A RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" At least some temporary repair could be made."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I would address the Minister for Local Self-Government to tell us if he could give some money for this. After all, some department must give money."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Mr. President, may I point out that it is a matter for the Public Works Department? "

Mr C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" We do not know which department is at all responsible for this matter."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" Is there any temporary arrangement made pending the final repairs to be effected? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" There is now a ferry. I also see that there is an estimate for temporary repairs."

Revenue Establishments.

The post of additional Assistant Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

*23 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any post of an additional Assistant Secretary in the Board of Revenue ;

(b) if so, the year when the post was created ; the name of the present incumbent; the number of years he has been actually there ; the special reasons for the continuance of this gentleman in the Board of Revenue ;

(c) whether there is any rule that Assistant Secretaries in the Board's office should not continue as such for more than three years ; and

(d) whether this post carries any special pay or allowance ; if so, how much?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) The appointment was sanctioned temporarily in February 1922 and was made permanent in November 1923. The term of office is ordinarily limited to three years.

M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib K. E. Chidambara Ayyar Avargal, who is the present incumbent, has been holding the post since February 1922. The Government have sanctioned his retention in the post till about October 1925 in the public interests.

(d) Yes ; a special pay of Rs 200 per mensem.

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Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar :—" As regards the first part of the answer, the last sentence reads : 'The Government have sanctioned his retention in the post till about October 1925 in the public interests.' May I know what the public interest is ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" It is due to the fact that there was a change of Commissioners just at the time and it was thought well to keep on the Assistant Secretary for a few more months."

Initial salaries of Revenue subordinates in Tanjore district.

*24 Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Board of Revenue have issued orders on 14th March 1925 to the effect that the initial salaries of Revenue subordinates below Rs. 100 in the Tanjore district should take effect from 1st August 1924 and not from 1st March 1921 as in the rest of the Presidency ; and

(b) the reason for this discrimination ?

A.—(a) The Collector of Tanjore fixed the initial salaries of some of the Revenue subordinates in his district on 16th September 1921 and of the rest on 6th January 1922 and gave effect to them from 1st March 1921 as in the rest of the Presidency. On appeals from some of them in regard to the initial pay fixed for them the Board of Revenue directed that the initial pay should be fixed with reference to seniority in the district establishment as a whole. This led to the revision of the initial pay of some of the subordinates.

In the proceedings of the Board of Revenue referred to in the question, the Board informed the Collector that effect should be given to the final revision of the initial salaries not from 1st March 1921 but from the date of order sanctioning it and that the subordinates should be started on that date at the stage in the time-scale which they would have reached on that date, had effect been given to the revision from 1st March 1921. The Government have issued further orders that until the date of the Collector's order revising their initial pay, they should be allowed the pay originally fixed for them together with the increments due to them in the interval.

(b) The delay in fixing the initial pay finally was due to appeals against the original orders of the Collector. The orders above passed are fair to all concerned having regard to this delay.

Village Establishments.

Members of depressed classes among village officials.

*25 Q.—Mr. R. Veerian : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of village monigars, karnams and assistant karnams in service belonging to the depressed classes together with their names, and the taluks and districts in which they discharge their duties ;